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# Metabolism

## *Clinical and Experimental*

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### Foreword

THE COLLECTION of articles on stress published in this supplement to *Metabolism* has been made possible by generous assistance from the Collège International de Recherche Servier (CIRS), a not-for-profit organization based in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. The Collège, which operates under the dynamic and creative leadership of its President, Madeleine Derôme-Tremblay, PhD, was created by Jacques Servier, MD, PhD. For over 3 decades, the international scientific community has been the beneficiary of Dr Servier's unstinting support of medical research and education.

The primary mission of CIRS is the promotion of health and prevention of disease worldwide. Within this framework, the Collège periodically organizes meetings and workshops with groups of scientists to analyze and, in many instances, publish reports on various important health problems that are of interest to CIRS. At these sessions, current issues are examined in the light of recent advances in medical science and changing world conditions. In the spring of 2001, CIRS convened a planning group to consider the subject of stress. At the meeting, the group concluded that the problem of stress is increasing worldwide and that its impact on health may be far greater than has been currently appreciated. Of particular concern was evidence that physicians, public health workers, and other health professionals still are not well informed about the science of stress,

despite the growing evidence that stress contributes in a substantial way to illness, disability, and the cost of health care.

Given this state of affairs, the Collège, with the members of the Planning Committee, decided to undertake the task of developing and preparing for publication, and for the *Annals of CIRS*, an authoritative and up-to-date overview of the problem of stress, with particular emphasis on its causes, physiologic and behavioral mechanisms, and public health implications. The result of this effort is this supplement to *Metabolism*, entitled "Stress: A Physiological, Clinical, and Public Health Perspective."

I wish to express particular gratitude to Dr Bruce McEwen for his patient knowledgeable advice, to Dr Madhu Kalia for her many helpful editorial contributions, to the members of the Planning Committee, and also to all of the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Collège.

Theodore B. VanItallie, MD  
Guest Editor

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